

REPORT OF NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 9th January 1897.

CONTENTS:

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		III.—LEGISLATIVE.	
The Sultan's report on the Constantinople massacres	29	The Religious Endowments question	34
The massacres in Turkey	ib	The Bengal Tenancy Act	35
Abuse of the Sultan	30	Babu Guruprasad Sen's interpellations regarding the distress	ib
The Indian Musalmans and England's treatment of the Sultan	ib	IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		Nil.	
(a)—Police—		V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
A dacoity in Tippera	ib	Russia on the Indian distress	ib
The irregularities, &c., in the Chandranath Temple	ib	Lord Elgin and England's offer of help	36
Investigation of cases against the police	31	The outlook in the Mymensingh district	ib
Outrage of female modesty in the Mymensingh district	ib	The official report on the prospects of the crops in Burdwan	ib
A suspicious death in Bankura	ib	Scarcity in a village in the Rajshahi district	ib
Lawlessness in Calcutta	ib	Lord Elgin in the distress	ib
(b)—Working of the Courts—		Lord Elgin in the distress	37
Excessive work in the Jalpaiguri Munsifi	ib	The Viceroy in the distress	ib
(c)—Jails—		Distress in Rajshahi	ib
Nil.		Reports of scarcity	ib
(d)—Education—		Raising of subscriptions for famine relief in Nadia	38
The Sahitya Parishad's memorial	32	Distress in Bankura	ib
Sir Alfred Croft	ib	Food and water-scarcity in Bengal	39
Schoolboy immorality	ib	One mode of meeting the distress	ib
The Sanskrit College under its present Principal	33	The railway as a famine insurance measure	ib
The Sahitya Parishad's memorial	ib	Rejection of Sir Alexander Mackenzie's proposal	40
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—		VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
Water-scarcity in Chittagong	ib	The Congress	ib
(f)—Questions affecting the land—		The Congress	41
The Sarail Settlement	ib	The vitality of the Congress	ib
(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—		The Congress on the famine	ib
Steamer service in the Mymensingh rivers, a source of danger	ib	The last Congress	42
(h)—General—		URIYA PAPERS.	
The Bhagirathi embankments in the Murshidabad district	ib	Export of rice from Orissa	ib
The Bihar survey	34	Injudicious sale of food-grains by the Uriya cultivators	ib
Postal complaints	ib	Export of rice and loss of crops	43
Incom-tax administration in Calcutta	ib	Destruction of paddy plants by insects	ib
Serious mortality in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district	ib	Sufferings of the landless classes in Orissa	ib
		The settlement proceedings	ib
		The outlook in Khurda	ib
		The roads and bridges of the Balasore Municipality	ib
		The Lieutenant-Governor's Durbar speech	ib
		Expected misuse of money by the Subdivisional Officer of Kendrapara	ib
		Mr. B. C. Dutt's transfer from Orissa	ib
		Certain agricultural matters	ib
		The Lieutenant-Governor on the Maharaja of Darbhanga's purchase of rice	ib
		Mismanagement of the Bhuvaneswar temple	44
		ASSAM PAPERS.	
		Nil.	

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta ...	20,000	2nd January, 1897.	
2	"Basumati" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto ...	800	5th ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto ...	About 4,000	1st ditto.	
5	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto ...	2,500	2nd ditto.	
6	"Navayuga" ...	Ditto ...	.....	2nd ditto.	
7	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto ...	About 500	30th December, 1896.	
8	"Samay" ...	Ditto ...	3,000	13th November and 18th December, 1896 and 1st January, 1897.	
9	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto ...	3,000	2nd January, 1897.	
10	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto ...	800	4th ditto.	
11	"Sulabh Samachar" ...	Ditto ...	.....	2nd ditto.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto ...	About 350	1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th January, 1897.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika" ...	Ditto ...	1,000	3rd to 7th January, 1897.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto ...	1,260	5th January, 1897.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	200	4th to 6th January, 1897.	
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto ...	Read by 3,000	31st December, 1896; and 5th and 6th January, 1897.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto ...	2,000	31st December, 1896.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	10,000	4th January, 1897.	
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Ditto ...	.....	4th ditto.	
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide" ...	Ditto ...	310	31st December, 1896.	
2	"General and Gauharisafi" ...	Ditto ...	330	31st ditto.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	450	1st January, 1897.	
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria ...	700		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	About 250	29th December, 1896.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	550		
3	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	1,145	1st January, 1897.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	326	30th December, 1896.	
2	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore ...	200		
3	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto ...	603	1st January, 1897.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.	
URIYA.						
ORISSA DIVISION.						
Monthly.						
1	"Brahma " ...	Cuttack ...	160		Only six copies have been issued since the paper was received in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered. This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.	
2	"Indradhanu " ...	Ditto ...	.....		
3	"Shikshabandhu " ...	Ditto ...	.....		
4	"Utkalprabha " ...	Mayurbhunj ...	.....	.....
Weekly.						
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini " ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces. ...	.....	21st October, 1896.	
2	"Samvad Vahika " ...	Balasore ...	190	10th and 17th December, 1896.		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad " ...	Ditto ...	309	16th December, 1896.		
4	"Utkal Dipika " ...	Cuttack ...	480	19th ditto.		
HINDI.						
PATNA DIVISION.						
Monthly.						
1	"Bihar Bandhu " ...	Bankipur ...	500	December, 1896.	It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number, 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers, and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.	
Weekly.						
1	"Aryavarta " ...	Dinapur ...	1,000	2nd January, 1897.		
URDU.						
Weekly.						
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch " ...	Bankipur ..	500	31st December, 1896.		
2	"Gaya Punch ...	Gaya ...	400	28th ditto.		
BENGALI.						
RAJSHAHI DIVISION.						
Weekly.						
1	"Hindu Ranjika " ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	195	30th ditto.		
2	"Rangpur Dikprakash " ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180			
HINDI.						
Monthly.						
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika." ...	Darjeeling ...	500	.....	It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number, 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers, and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.
BENGALI.						
Dacca DIVISION.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Kasipur Nivasi " ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	244			
Weekly.						
1	"Barisal Hitaishi " ...	Barisal ...	.....	25th ditto.	
2	"Charu Mihir " ...	Mymensingh ...	900	28th ditto.		
3	"Dacca Prakash " ...	Dacca ...	2,400	3rd January, 1897.		
4	"Saraswat Patra " ...	Do. ...	About 440	2nd ditto.		
5	"Vikrampur " ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ...	240	31st December, 1896.		
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.						
Weekly.						
1	"Dacca Gazette " ...	Dacca ...	500	4th January, 1897.		
BENGALI.						
CHITTAGONG DIVISION.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Tripura Prakash " ...	Comilla ...	700	Agrahayan, 2nd fortnight, 1303 B.S.		
Weekly.						
1	"Sansodhini " ...	Chittagong ...	120	31st December, 1896.		
BENGALI.						
ASSAM.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi" ...	Sylhet ...	.....		

Date	Description	Debit	Credit	Balance
1870	Jan 1			
1871	Feb 1			
1872	Mar 1			
1873	Apr 1			
1874	May 1			
1875	Jun 1			
1876	Jul 1			
1877	Aug 1			
1878	Sep 1			
1879	Oct 1			
1880	Nov 1			
1881	Dec 1			
1882	Jan 1			
1883	Feb 1			
1884	Mar 1			
1885	Apr 1			

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

Referring to the massacres which took place in Constantinople, the *Samay*, of the 13th November, wrote as follows:—

The Sultan's report on the Constantinople massacres.

The report of these massacres published by the Sultan varies widely from the newspaper reports.

According to the latter, thousand Christians were massacred, but the Sultan's report said that the Christians were the first to attack, and without provocation slaughtered, thousands of innocent Musalmans; that in the affray which ensued the Musalmans might have killed a handful of Christians, but that is too insignificant a fact to be taken any account of. But considering the indignation which the incident roused in England, it is difficult to believe that the Sultan's report was correct. The Armenians were not certainly sick of their lives that, knowing as they did the power of the Sultan to destroy them wholesale within a short time a handful of them should, like desperate men, act as they were reported to have done.

The Sultan is not himself a blood-thirsty tyrant, but he has not the power, in opposition to his orthodox subjects, to introduce reforms in his administration. About ninety-five per cent. of his subjects belong to the orthodox class, who consider it the principal duty imposed upon them by their religion to massacre *Kafers* or unbelievers. They want to hew down *Kafers* like forest trees and will not feel the least remorse or compunction in doing so. They believe that with the assistance of *Khoda* (God) they will always keep *Kafers* in check. If the Sultan says one word against this belief, he, too, may be dethroned and cast away as an unbeliever and a Christian.

SAMAY,
Nov. 13th, 1896.

2. The following passages are taken from an article on the "Sultan," which appeared in the *Samay* of the 18th December:—

The massacres in Turkey.

SAMAY,
Dec. 18th, 1896.

(1) Most of the orthodox Musalmans regard unbelievers as worse than wild and ferocious beasts of the forest. Beasts never go against God, but *Kafers* do. Why then should any religious scruple be felt in hunting down and killing *Kafers* when none is felt in killing the beasts of the forest? If cruelty and stratagem are excusable in the killing of the deer of the forest and the bird of the sky, it is much more excusable in the eye of God to use cruelty and stratagem in killing *Kafers*, His enemies, that is, whom He cannot control Himself, and whom He has specially appointed His favourite people, the Musalmans, to put down. *Kafers* are plundering His property—that is to say, air, water, fire and earth. He cannot Himself check the plunder, and the religious Musalmans have, therefore, taken up His cause.

Can the people whose religious belief is of this nature be expected to listen to the moral counsels of Christianity? It is futile to attempt to teach morality to such a people. The cow or the buffalo is not certainly taught by a few days confinement on short diet in a cattle pound to look upon the eating of crops as a wrong act. The cow or the buffalo thinks that God causes crops to grow in order to become its food, and the man who opposes it in eating such food is God's enemy and ought to be killed.

(2) The Sultan is really guilty of killing thousands of Christians, and Mr. Gladstone clearly showed that it was beyond the Sultan's power to establish order within his territory and reform the administration. All the world thought, therefore, that the Sultan's rule was coming to an end. But the wily Turk was a match for his European enemies. He took shelter behind a policy of creating a division among the Powers, and the result was that France and Russia stood at a distance, and England remained inactive, lest by attacking Turkey she should pick a quarrel with those two Powers. If the Powers had acted in concert, as Mr. Gladstone advised them to do, Turkey and her turbulent Musalmans would not have been able to perpetrate a wholesale massacre of Christian boys and girls in Crete.

(3) Mr. Gladstone called the Sultan the "Chief Assassin." As a matter of fact, the Sultan is the greatest sinner in the eyes of Hindus and Christians.

But the Sultan's Musalman subjects will regard Mr. Gladstone's epithet as redounding to their Sovereign's glory. Is argument or explanation possible with a nation which from the moment of its appearance on earth has considered the killing of *Kafers* as an act of great religious merit? It is well for the weak Armenians that they have been deported from Turkey. To live among a people who consider it a religious act to kill *Kafers* is more dangerous than living among ferocious animals. Of the ferocious animals the tiger alone kills a prey even when it is not hungry. But other beasts do not kill except when they are driven by hunger to do so. But the Musalman's religious thirst is always so keen that it is not quenched even if the *Kafers'* blood deluges the earth. The European Powers, who feel momentary sympathy with the Armenians and relapse into indifference the next moment, cannot certainly expect a ferocious people like the Musalmans to be reformed by religious counsel.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Jan. 2nd, 1897.

3. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 2nd January says that the *Times* newspaper has done well by drawing attention to the mischief which is likely to be caused by the vulgar and abusive language which is used towards the Sultan. Musalmans all over the world pay the greatest respect to the Sultan, and an abuse of their Caliph may induce them to rise in arms against his abusers.

The Musalmans of Bengal have taken offence at the manner in which the *Samay* newspaper is writing about the Sultan (see above, paragraphs 1 and 2). If that paper does not become more careful in future, no one can say what fate will overtake its conductors. It is hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor and the Commissioner of Police will warn its editor.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Jan. 4th, 1897.

4. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 4th January wants to know from what source the *Times* newspaper has gathered the fact that owing to the hostile attitude of England towards the Sultan a feeling of hatred towards the English people is spreading among the Musalmans of India. England's treatment of the Sultan is not in any manner calculated to create a sensation among Indian Musalmans which will operate fatally against the British Government.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,
for the second fortnight of Agra-hayan,
1303 B.S.

5. A correspondent writes in the *Tripura Prakash* for the 2nd fortnight of Agra-hayan 1303 B.S. that one Balai Chand Banikya of Brahmanbaria was waylaid and robbed on his way from Chandidwar in the Tippera district, near Gopinathpur, by Sunabbar, a dangerous and notorious character. The dacoit has, through fear, returned the valuables robbed by him, and these are now lodged with the Sub-Inspector of Kasba thana. The police, however, has up to this time failed to arrest the offender, though his name is known to all.

A dacoity in Tippera.

TRIPURA PRAKASH.

6. A correspondent of the same paper writes that the following are among the complaints of the pilgrims to the Chandranath Temple:—

(1) The *Gaya Kunda* is out of repair. The place where *pinda* is offered is extremely filthy. The filth should be removed and the flight of stairs to the *Kunda* should be repaired.

(2) The Mohunt's men still levy blackmail from the pilgrims. This should be put a stop to.

(3) Better arrangements should be made for the *puja* of Chandranath, Birupaksha and Swayambhunath.

(4) The tanks are almost dry and extremely filthy. For the sake of the health of the pilgrims, they should be re-excavated.

(5) Flights of stairs should be built to the temples of Swayambhunath, Chandranath and Birupaksha.

(6) Care should be taken to prevent waste or misappropriation of temple funds by the *Mohunts*.

(7) The *Vyas Kunda* sadly stands in need of thorough repair.

(8) Windows should be built to the temple of Swayambhunath.

7. The *Charu Mihir* of the 28th December says that the practice of having cases against the police investigated by police officers generally results in their dismissal as false. That is the reason why police oppression is increasing every day. Cases of torture to extort confession seldom come to the knowledge of the public. It is only a few of those cases in which, through the carelessness of the police, death or other accident follows, that come into law courts. But even in those cases the accused as a rule get their acquittal for want of sufficient incriminating evidence. All other Local Governments should, therefore, follow the example of the Madras Government, which has ordered that all complaints of torturing accused persons to extort confession brought against police officers should be investigated by District Magistrates. It is necessary that after issuing the order the Governments should keep a sharp look out and see that it is given effect to and not allowed to become left a dead letter. It would have been better if all cases against the police had been ordered to be investigated by District Magistrates.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 28th, 1896.

8. Referring to the recent case of outrage of female modesty in the Mymensingh district, in which the accused, Isaf Shaikh, has been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment, the same paper observes that it is solely owing to the negligence and corruptness of the police and the indifference of the talukdars that the crime still remains unchecked.

CHARU MIHIR,

9. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st January reports that a dead body bound up in a gunny-bag was discovered on the 31st December last, in the well of Umapati Pathak of Pathakpara in Bankura town. The body has been identified as that of Dayi Goalini of Bagakhul village. Police investigation is going on, but it is doubtful whether any good will come of it. The other day a dead body was discovered hanging from a tree in a public thoroughfare. But the police has not yet succeeded in finding out the offenders.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Jan. 1st, 1897.

10. The *Som Prakash* of the 4th January complains of the prevalence of lawlessness in Calcutta. A few days ago a number of *gundas* tried to rob a gentleman of Simla, but being a muscular man himself he worsted his assailants. He had a number of the *budmashes* arrested and prosecuted by the police, but, strange to say, they were all acquitted by the Magistrate. Lately, a man stole some type from the *Som Prakash* press. He was prosecuted, but was acquitted. When Mr. B. L. Gupta was a Presidency Magistrate, the *budmashes* were kept under control, but the leniency of the present Magistrates has emboldened them. The prevailing lawlessness has struck terror into the hearts of the Calcutta public. The Police Commissioner and the Presidency Magistrates should take speedy measures to put a stop to the prevailing lawlessness.

SOM PRAKASH,
Jan. 4th, 1897.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

11. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 1st January says that in other years, when the number of contested suits in the Jalpaiguri Munsifi became too large for the Munsif to be able to dispose of them single-handed, an additional Munsif used to be sent to Jalpaiguri for his relief. But this year, instead of sending an additional Munsif, the District Judge of Rangpur has passed an order for the contested suits of the Bedo and Patgram parganas, within the jurisdiction of the Jalpaiguri Munsifi, to be transferred to the Nilphamari Munsifi. The number of contested suits is very large this year, because, taking advantage of the prevailing scarcity, many wicked people have instituted false claims against their poorer neighbours. The poor people so sued have been compelled to sell their cattle in order to contest those false claims, and the District Judge's order will add to their difficulties. These men have already paid pleaders' fees at Jalpaiguri, and they will now be under the necessity of engaging new pleaders at Nilphamari. Their journey to Nilphamari will also be more costly to them than their journey to Jalpaiguri.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 1st, 1897.

(d)—Education.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 29th, 1896.

12. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 29th December approves of the *Sahitya Parishad's* memorial, addressed to the Director of Public Instruction, recommending some changes in the curriculum of the vernacular scholarship schools. The candidates for primary and middle examinations are boys of tender years, but they have to read a large number of books, quite tiresome to them and unsuited to their intellectual capacities. The educational authorities select text-books and lay down the courses of study for these examinations without caring to know whether they are suited to the intellectual capacity of the young learners.

SAHACHAR,
Dec. 30th, 1896.

13. The *Sahachar* of the 30th December has the following:—

Sir Alfred Croft. Sir Alfred Croft is a learned man and an able officer, and Government has recognised his merit by conferring on him a knighthood. But Sir Alfred has failed to obtain the gratitude of the people, because he had very little sympathy with them. He was a good patron to his subordinates and dependants, but as the head of the Education Department he was not what he was expected to be. As Director of Public Instruction he was so completely changed from what he was as a Professor that latterly in conversing with him one did not feel that one was talking to a man of the Education Department. Whoever knew the late Messrs. Atkinson, Woodrow and Sutcliffe will never forget them. They were the same simple, kind and amiable men, whether serving as Professors or as Directors of Public Instruction. They were always affectionate to those who had the honour of sitting at their feet. Of this stamp were also Professors Cowell and Tawney. Sir Alfred appears to be a man of a different mould. He would have made a capital political officer.

As Director of Public Instruction, Sir Alfred did not raise his department above the footing on which he found it. The reorganisation scheme which is about to take effect will do great harm to the country. If Sir Alfred had stoutly opposed it, it could not certainly have been carried so soon. But he did not do that, either from want of sympathy with the people or because he had not the strength of mind to do it. He must now bear the odium of having given effect to the scheme.

As Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, too, Sir Alfred did not acquit himself well. The public condemned him for encouraging factions in the University.

But all this notwithstanding, Sir Alfred is a man at whose departure everybody will be sorry. He is a learned man, and many of his pupils have distinguished themselves in the world. These will certainly be sorry for their preceptor. Many officers of the Education Department, too, who received favours at his hands, will be sorry for him. We pray to God that he may enjoy health, happiness and comfort during the remainder of his life.

SAHACHAR.

14. Referring to the subject of the want of discipline among school-boys, noticed in the Government Resolution on the last report of the Education Department, the same

School-boy immorality. paper says that the most cordial relations existed between pupils and teachers in the past, and that in bygone times school-boys always conducted themselves with politeness towards strangers. Pupils in those days looked upon their teacher as their father, and the teacher regarded his pupils with a true filial affection. It is not so now, probably because there is a want of sympathy between teachers and their pupils. The European professors, at least, are not mindful of their duty of forming the character of their pupils, and are content with storing their mind with knowledge. Dr. Martin has proposed the introduction of moral and religious education in all educational institutions. But it is easier to make such a proposal than to carry it out. A little moral teaching in school-books may not be objected to by anybody, but everybody cannot be expected to accept religious teaching in such books. In schools in this country, therefore, the best way of improving school-boy morality is for the teacher to impart moral teaching orally, and to set a high moral model for imitation in his own character.

15. The same paper says that the present Principal of the Sanskrit College has given new life to the institution, as is evidenced by the increase in the number of its students. Himself an *alumnus* of the college, it is no wonder that Pandit Nilmani Nyayalankar should do his best to improve its condition. And it is matter for congratulation that the authorities have appreciated the good work which he is doing. Sir Alfred Croft could not be present at the last distribution of prizes, but he wrote a letter praising Pandit Nyayalankar's work. This testimony from Sir Alfred shows that though Pandit Nyayalankar is not making much fuss or noise, he is silently doing good work. It is hoped that now that Sir Alfred Croft is leaving India for good, he will recommend Pandit Nyayalankar to Government for some reward of his meritorious service.

SAHACHAR,
Dec. 30th, 1896.

16. The *Hitavadi* of the 1st January is glad that the Sahitya Parishad of Calcutta has submitted a memorial to the Director of Public Instruction, protesting against the mischievous multiplicity of text-books in the lower primary, upper primary, middle vernacular, and middle English examinations. Will not Sir Alfred Croft do one more good work, on the eve of his departure, by doing away with this multiplicity of text-books?

HITAVADI,
Jan. 1st, 1897.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

17. The *Sansodhini* of the 31st December complains of the prevalence of water scarcity in Chittagong. The tanks and wells are already exhausted, those on the sea coast having run almost dry. The water in most of the tanks has become foul and its use is sure to bring on outbreaks of small-pox and cholera. Chicken-pox has already made its appearance, and fever has become almost chronic. The District Board should take speedy measures to improve the water supply of the district, and this dry season is the proper time for the digging of tanks.

SANSODHINI,
Dec. 31st, 1896.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

18. Sir Alexander Mackenzie, observes the *Tripura Prakash* for the 2nd fortnight of Agrahayan, 1303 B.S., has condemned the Sarail settlement operations. In a recent resolution His Honour observes that "so much arrears are due to the bad settlement of the Sarail estate." The Resolution is signed by Mr. Finucane, who was the Director of Land Records and Agriculture when the Sarail settlement was carried on, and who praised Babu Kali Sankar Sen, the Settlement Officer. By an irony of fate Mr. Finucane is now made to condemn his own action.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,
for the second fortnight of Agrahayan,
1303 B.S.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

19. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* of the 28th December, writing from Bajitpur in the Mymensingh district, says that the incessant plying of steamers on the rivers has become a source of danger to boats. The other day a boat collided with the steamer which goes to Sylhet *via* Dighirpar near Bajitpur, and sank. Two passengers were drowned, the steamer people not heeding their cries for help.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 28th, 1896.

(h)—General.

20. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 30th December cannot understand why the construction of new embankments on the Bhagirathi at Laltakuri and Bhagwangola in the Murshidabad district has not yet been commenced. The delay has occasioned an alarm lest, like the Damodar embankments, the embankments on the Bhagirathi, too, should be abandoned. It is hoped that Sir Alexander Mackenzie will not be an enemy of embankments like Sir Charles Elliott. Sir Alexander knew, when he was Magistrate of Murshidabad, that the Laltakuri embankment needed careful looking after as soon as the rainy season set in,

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Dec. 30th, 1896.

and that as soon as the river in its rise touched the embankment, telegrams had to be sent almost every day to the Magistrates of Nadia and other adjacent districts, informing them of the condition of the *bund*. That the same embankment should be neglected now is a circumstance which is not easily understood. The people of the Nadia, Jessore, Murshidabad and 24-Parganas districts should memorialise the Government for early action in regard to the new embankments. Government's attention should also be drawn to the old embankment at Laltakuri, which not only rests on a sandy foundation, but is itself made of sand.

AL PUNCH,
Dec. 31st, 1896.

21. *Al Punch* of the 31st December says that while in view of the scarcity the survey operations in the other districts of Bihar

The Bihar survey.

have been postponed, the work has not been suspended in Darbhanga owing to the report of the District Magistrate that the condition of the crops in the district is favourable. The survey having brought a large number of strangers into the district, the prices of food articles have considerably risen, and it is feared that there will be a severe outbreak of famine in the district by the month of Jyaistha. Preparation of land for the *rabi* crop is being retarded owing to the cultivators being required to attend on the survey *amins* with their documents when their lands are surveyed.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 1st, 1897.

22. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 1st January complains that the Writers' Buildings Post Office does not, as a rule, do any work for people not employed in those buildings.

Postal complaints.

But it follows no consistent course on that point, for the writer, an outsider, has on two occasions coaxed the Post-Master of that office into sending money-orders for him, though on other occasions he could not induce him to do so. The Money-order Department of the General Post Office becomes so crowded that people are put to great inconvenience in getting their work done there. To remedy this evil a new branch Post Office should be opened near the General Post Office or, if that is not found practicable, the number of officers in the Money-order Department of the General Post Office should be increased.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Jan. 2nd, 1897.

23. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 2nd January has heard from many

Income-tax administration in Calcutta.

experienced income-tax officers that, on account of the Government order requiring the realisation of the income-tax by hook or by crook, objections against assessments seldom produce any result, and that men once assessed are never exempted from the tax in future, whether they have any income or not. This is perfectly true. A friend of the writer some time ago started a small press with a capital of seven to eight hundred rupees. So small an investment could not be expected to yield a net profit of Rs. 500 per annum. But he was assessed to a tax of Rs. 10, and he had to pay it. And strange to say, the tax was demanded from him even when he had sold the press, and on his not paying it the furniture of the gentleman at whose house he resided was about to be attached, when the owner, a Deputy Magistrate, feeling it a dishonour to have his property attached, paid down the tax! As a matter of fact, the greatest mismanagement prevails in the administration of the income-tax office in Calcutta. The assessors are paid such handsome salaries as Rs. 200 to Rs. 250 a month, but outsiders are appointed to these posts in utter disregard of the claims of *mufassal* assessors.

SULABH SAMACHAR,
Jan. 2nd, 1897.

24. The *Sulabh Samachar* of the 2nd January complains of serious

Serious mortality in the Tangail sub-division of the Mymensingh district.

mortality from fever in the Tangail sub-division of the Mymensingh district. Two to four hundred people are dying in many villages. Many villages are being almost depopulated. In Mamudpur five hundred and in Sanhitayogini, a small village, three hundred people have died. The want of qualified medical practitioners is keenly felt. The people are too poor to pay for medicine and diet. The Sub-divisional Officer seems to be quite indifferent.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

SANSODHINI,
Dec. 31st, 1896.

25. The *Sansodhini* of the 31st December contains a letter from a correspondent, complaining of the conduct of the *Mohunt*

The Religious Endowments question.

of Chandranath, and requesting the Editor to agitate in favour of the draft Bill concerning the management of religious endowments, published in the *Bengalee* and the *Hitavadi*

newspapers. Nothing but a legislative enactment will put a stop to the high-handedness and misconduct of the *mohunts*. Vigorous measures should be adopted to put a stop to the practice of levying money from pilgrims by the sale of tickets. The income which is derived from endowed property is quite sufficient for the purpose of defraying all expenses connected with the worship of the gods. At present the wells and tanks belonging to the Chandranath temple are not cleared and the bathing *gháts* are not repaired. This ought to be done with the temple money. The necessity of a gate or a spacious window on the north of the Swayambhunath temple is also keenly felt.

26. Babu Satis Chandra Chakravarti, a zamindar and Honorary Magistrate, writes in the *Hitavadi* of the 1st January as follows:—

The Bengal Tenancy Act.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 1st, 1897.

The Bengal Tenancy Act was framed with too exclusive a regard to the welfare of the raiyat. In fact, it has reduced the zamindar to the status of a tahsildar. By it the English Government has conferred upon the tenants of this country privileges which tenants in England do not possess. In its anxiety to benefit the raiyat, Government has injured the zamindar and interfered with the Permanent Settlement. Now that there is a proposal of amending the Act, Government will do well to see whether it has really benefited the raiyat. In amending the Act, will not Government have a little more regard to the convenience of the zamindar? We will here refer to only one objectionable provision of the present Act. It is that when a suit for arrears of rent is instituted against a raiyat, he is required to at once deposit the rent in court, if he admits the claim. This is a most objectionable provision. A rent suit is instituted against a raiyat only when he becomes unable to pay the rent due from him; and the effect of this provision is that many who would otherwise willingly admit claims for rent now deny such claims altogether. It may be argued that defaulting tenants need not contest rent-suits. But it is often necessary to contest such suits, for more may be claimed than is really due, or a question of right may be involved. This provision therefore compels many defaulting tenants to take refuge in a lie, and thereby incur the displeasure of their landlords. This provision should therefore be amended.

27. Referring to the Hon'ble Babu Guruprasad Sen's interpellations about the famine, the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 7th January observes that the official papers regarding the present distress published in the *Calcutta Gazette* long before the Hon'ble Member put his questions should be a satisfactory reply to his interpellations. It is a pity that a Member of the Legislative Council does not keep himself abreast of current official reports and resolutions. It is a shame that Babu Guruprasad did not read even the Famine Code before he made his interpellations. He ought to have withdrawn his questions when he saw that they had been all answered in the official papers published in the *Calcutta Gazette*. Such lamentable ignorance does not befit an Honourable Member.

Babu Guruprasad Sen's interpellations regarding the distress.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 7th, 1897.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

28. The *Charu Mihir* of the 28th December has the following:—

Russia on the Indian distress. It is doubtful whether Government will accept the relief which Russia has offered to India in her present distress. But whether the offer is accepted or not, what Russia has written regarding the famine is certainly not creditable to the British Government. She says that the English Government is taking no steps to save life, and is suppressing the real circumstances of the distress. Russia's allegations may not be palatable to the Government of this country, but no one who has read the history of past famines in India will be able to say that the statement is untrue. In the Orissa famine of 1866, the authorities did not care to see the gravity of the situation in time, and when they saw it, they suppressed facts. A million men therefore died. In the Bihar famine of 1874, that high-minded Viceroy, Lord Northbrook, spent money like water to save life, but he was reprimanded in England for his extravagance. Four or five years later, another terrible famine broke out in Madras and the Deccan generally.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 28th, 1896.

Lord Lytton had a forewarning of the visitation, but he did nothing to avert it. His Lordship was too busy getting up the Delhi Darbar and seeking a pretext for a proclamation of war against Afghanistan to mind a famine. And the officials under him were sunk in mirth and amusement, whilst numberless human beings were crying in despair! What a sight! About five millions of men, women and children died in the course of this visitation, making a whole province desolate as a desert.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 28th, 1896.

29. The same paper continues as follows:—

Lord Elgin and England's offer of help.

It is supposed that after misappropriating the Famine Fund, Government is ashamed to take other people's help in relieving distress. No other explanation can be found of its hesitation to accept the offer of help which has been made by England. But it will not be wise to decline the offer in a crisis like the present. Lord Elgin will be considered a most heartless man if, in the face of the fact that thousands are dying of starvation and others have been reduced to skeletons, he declines to accept England's aid, simply to avoid the humiliating admission that there is famine in India. The way in which the Government is endeavouring to meet the distress has astonished everybody. Not having sufficient money in its own treasury, it is endeavouring to lay under fresh contribution those very people from whom it exacted the famine insurance tax, and who have all along been contributing towards the income of the District Boards. When Government demands subscriptions, the zamindars, talukdars, &c., must, at their own risk, find money to satisfy the authorities. This is oppression of the worst type. There can be no objection against taking voluntary contributions, and those who have money are under a moral obligation to contribute at a time like this. But to write to zamindars and talukdars to subscribe to the relief fund, or make them write their names on subscription lists at meetings, is but collecting money by official pressure. If Government wishes to save life, it should not go about raising money in this way, but should spend its own money, and when that falls short, ask for aid from England, and accept such voluntary contributions as may be made by rich men in this country.

CHARU MIHIR.

30. The same paper says that though in the beginning of Paus the price

The outlook in the Mymensingh district.

of rice was a little low in the Mymensingh district, it has again risen to 4 rupees and 4 annas per maund. The outturn of winter rice is estimated at only 8 annas, which is expected to feed the district only up to the month of Chaitra. Government is making a great mistake by not taking steps to lower the prices of grain, and in leaving them to be brought down by the operation of the principles of demand and supply. The prices of other commodities, too, have risen along with that of rice, and it is certain that, if timely measures are not taken, a large number of deaths will take place. The prospect of the *rabi* crop is so far not hopeful, and will become exceedingly gloomy if there be no sufficient rainfall in the month of Magh. And even with a full *rabi* crop distress will prevail all the same. Mr. Harris is, therefore, asked to take precautionary measures.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 29th, 1896.

31. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 29th December observes that the

The official report on the prospects of the crops in Burdwan.

official report on the prospects of the *rabi* crop in Burdwan is not correct. "The prospects of the *rabi* crops are fair except in Raniganj," says this report; but it is not so. In many parts of Burdwan the *rabi* was not even sown. The last *Aswin's* rain did good to the crops in only a small number of villages. The prospects of the *rabi* crops are good only on the banks of the Damodar. The sugarcane and the potato crops have also materially suffered on account of want of rain.

HINDU RANJIKA,
Dec. 30th, 1896.

32. The *Hindu Ranjika* of the 30th December complains of the prevalence

Scarcity in a village in the Rajshahi district.

of scarcity in Barhaigram, a village in the Rajshahi district. The outturn of the *aus* crop is unsatisfactory, and the *aman* crop has been a failure. Rice is selling at ten seers and paddy at 20 seers per rupee. Water scarcity, too, prevails.

SAHACHAR,
Dec. 30th, 1896.

33. The *Sahachar* of the 30th December writes as follows:—

Lord Elgin in the distress.

We are not in the habit of finding fault with Government, but we must say that Lord Elgin

was greatly mistaken in not taking the aid which England offered to India in her present distress. There was certainly nothing wrong in the intention of the Governor-General, and he is sure to do everything in his power to save the people from starvation if a famine breaks out. But he is not justified in counting so much upon the winter rain and a successful *rabi* crop. Even with a good rainfall in winter and a good *rabi* crop, relief measures on an extensive scale will be necessary, for the *rabi* crop alone will not make up the loss which the country has sustained by the failure of the winter crop. But without a good winter rain and with a damaged *rabi*, the situation will be one which Government will have the greatest difficulty in grappling with, if it is not prepared to meet it. It is hoped that Lord Elgin will fully realise the responsibility which rests upon him, and act accordingly.

34. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 31st December says that before his tour

Lord Elgin in the distress.

Lord Elgin had more than once expressed a wish to do something to avert the impending famine,

but when he saw the condition of the people with his own eyes, strangely enough he changed his views and saw no necessity for starting relief works without delay. Supposing that His Excellency is not willing to spend Government's money on famine relief because of the straitened condition of the finances, why did he decline the offer of help which was made by the people of England? Thousands are dying of starvation; many are deserting their nearest and dearest relations, not being able to supply them with food; or are committing suicide or murders, and not hesitating to sell their children, even the chastity of their women, for the sake of food. Does not all this afford sufficient proof that India has been visited by acute distress? There is, in fact, no surplus food stock in this country, and the help must come from without.

His Excellency must lose no time to induce his countrymen to save the lives of their fellow-subjects in India by giving them pecuniary help. Was His Excellency actuated by any secret motive in declining England's offer of help?

35. The *Hitavadi* of the 1st January says:—

The Viceroy in the distress.

Having read in newspapers reports of the scarcity prevailing in this country, the English

public came forward with an offer of help. But Lord Elgin has declined that help, saying "the distress is not so great as to call for the help of England, and the Government of India will be able to relieve it unaided." It is, however, no exaggeration to say that the Viceroy is making no effort whatever to relieve the distress. He will not afford any relief himself, and will not allow others to afford it. It is his main object to maintain the prestige of the Government of India, and what does he care if the people of India die of starvation? We are really grieved at this conduct of the Viceroy.

36. The same paper says that distress has become more severe in the

Distress in Rajshahi.

Rajshahi Division. Many people cannot procure one meal after a day's hard work. The Divisional

Commissioner held a public meeting at Rampur-Boalia, with a view to raise subscriptions for the relief of distress. He himself, the District Judge and the Collector have each contributed a sum of Rs. 100, but nothing is yet known as to the relief which will be afforded by Government. When the Commissioner has contributed money himself for the relief of distress, he must be aware of the sad condition of the country, and he has probably asked Government for help. But Sir Alexander Mackenzie has no despatch. It is to be hoped that he will follow the example of Sir Antony MacDonnell.

37. The same paper publishes the following reports of scarcity received

Reports of scarcity.

from correspondents:—

Manokhali, Jessore. There was an inadequate outturn of jute and paddy last year. This year there has been a total failure of the *aman* crop on account of drought. The outturn of the *aus* crop was also so small as to last the cultivators for not more than one or two months. The proceeds of the sale of the small quantity of jute that could be steeped in water have gone to a part payment of the zamindar's demand. There is no hope of a harvest next year, for even seed-grain has been consumed. The villagers will be perfectly helpless if Government does not come to their relief.

BHARAT MITRA,
Dec. 31st, 1896.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 1st, 1897.

HITAVADI.

HITAVADI.

Bangala, Mymensingh.—There is scarcity, if not famine, in the village. Rice is selling at Rs. 4 or Rs. 4-8 per maund. Only an 8-anna crop may be expected. But there will be a total failure of the *kalai* and other *rabi* crops. At the local *hât* traders are regrating paddy and rice to the great inconvenience of the villagers, who are thus under the necessity of purchasing those necessities at a price 8 or 10 annas higher per maund. This practice of regrating should not be countenanced at this time of distress.

Mathurapur, Mahadevpur, Dinajpur.

The Honorary Secretary of the local school writes:—

The distress in these parts has become so severe as to defy description. The paddy which has grown will not suffice for the needs of the local population, and yet it is being exported. Coarse rice is selling at 12½ seers *kutcha* per rupee. Other provisions are also selling dear. If there be no rain in a few days there will be a total failure of the *rabi* crop. The local Deputy Magistrate should put a stop to the export.

Meherpur, Nadia.—All the premonitory symptoms of famine are to be seen. The Bhairab has almost dried up, so that there is scarcity of water at several places. The condition of the cultivators of 15 or 16 neighbouring villages is miserable. Many poor people cannot get two full meals a day. Cultivators are living upon *kesur alu*, which they purchase at a pice per seer, and also upon *arum* and such like vegetables.

Garfa, 24-Parganas.—The villagers are almost all poor. Only a 1-anna crop will be obtained. Coarse rice is selling at 6½ or 7 seers per rupee. Half the inhabitants of Garfa, Unsingachhi, Jadavpur, Kalikapur, Hamru, Raypur, Sonajanpur, Rajapur, Pathuli and other villages cannot get two meals a day. Garfa is a malarious place on account of the jungle on the two sides of the railway line. There is also scarcity of water, the large railway tank having become foul for some years past. The dam up to Kalikapur is doing a great deal of good, and 5 or 6 thousand *bighas* of land will become fit for paddy cultivation if an embankment is constructed from this dam to the Garfa station. The Lieutenant-Governor and the Manager of the Bengal Assam Railway are requested to attend to these matters.

PRATIKAR,
Jan. 1st, 1897.

38. The *Pratihar* of the 1st January says that the object of Mr. Garrett, District Magistrate of Nadia, in raising famine relief subscriptions was certainly good, but before seeking public help in this way, would he not have done well to consider what he himself, as a representative of the Government, has done for the same purpose? The people pay a famine insurance tax. Why should they be again asked to contribute towards famine relief? If the famine insurance tax which they have hitherto paid had been devoted to its legitimate object, there would have arisen no necessity for making them pay a famine tax again in the shape of subscriptions for famine relief. The people should certainly do their best to save their fellow-countrymen from starvation, but everybody would also be glad to see the Government minding its own duty.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Jan. 1st, 1897.

39. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 1st January complains of the prevalence of food and water-scarcity in the Bankura district. The authorities should take speedy measures to grapple with the distress. Mr. Manisty, the sympathetic and kind-hearted District Magistrate, is seeing things with his own eyes, and has no doubt been convinced of the immediate necessity of opening relief works. The Bankura people are proverbially poor. Most of the labourers about this time migrate to Burdwan and other neighbouring districts in search of employment. This year, however, they do not venture to go away from their homes partly because there are no prospects of employment elsewhere, and partly because they do not like to leave their families at this time of distress. Relief works should be opened to provide these men with employment. The tanks and wells in the district have run dry. Their owners are not rich enough to re-excavate them. If the Government advance them money at a low rate of interest or free of interest, it will not only remove the water-scarcity of the district, but will also provide the famine-stricken people with employment.

The place most affected in the district in Raipur, where acute scarcity prevails. People will die from starvation if relief works are not soon opened there. The police, of course, may not recognise deaths from starvation, and may record them as deaths from diseases. A few years ago, a man suffering from starvation ate a number of *kadam* flowers, and died. His death was ascribed by the police to bowel-complaint.

It is further observed that though Government admits that fodder is wanting in the Gangajalghati and Onda thanas, in the Bankura district, no steps are being taken to remove this scarcity. Bankura is the poorest district in Bengal. Thousands of men and cattle will die if speedy relief measures are not taken.

40. Correspondents of the *Bangavasi* of the 2nd January complain of the prevalence of acute scarcity in several parts of Bengal. Only a very small quantity of paddy and rice is available in Cooch Behar. Rice is selling there at Rs. 4-12 or Rs. 5 per maund. There was a failure of the *aus* crop, and there has been only a 4-anna *aman* crop. There is no stock of grain in any house. About 10 annas of the population are helpless, not less than 2 annas are living on roots and wild plants, and about 4 annas are half starved. Acute scarcity prevails in Malancha, in the Jamalpur subdivision of the Mymensingh district. The *aman* rice crop has been harvested, but the price of rice is still rising instead of going down. Old rice is selling at Rs. 5 12 to Rs. 6-4 per maund and coarse new rice at 10 seers per rupee. Only a few days ago a starving Musalman sold his new-born daughter for two rupees. The state of things is very bad in the Bahadurganj thana in the Manbhum district. The extensive jute cultivation of the district materially interfered with the cultivation of rice. The quantity of rice grown is insufficient, and even this small quantity is being exported to Darjeeling. The poor people who earn not more than two annas a day are in great distress. They do not even get rice for money. Many are living on leaves and plants. Famine has broken out in Devagram and fourteen other villages in the Nadia district. The poor raiyats and many middle-class people are living on one meal a day. Water-scarcity is acuter than food-scarcity. Both food and water-scarcity prevails in Hogalbari, in the Meherpur subdivision of the same district. The state of things is no better in Purapurha in the Bongong subdivision of the Jessore district, where acute food and water-scarcity prevails.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 2nd, 1897.

41. The Government, observes the *Dacca Prakash* of the 3rd January, is prepared to spend liberally for the purpose of helping the famine-stricken people, but what can money avail when food is wanting? Lavish expenditure of money, in the absence of food-supply, will only serve to raise the prices of food-grains. What is most needed at the present juncture is to increase the supply of corn, and this may be done by growing *boro* rice on the fertile chars and banks of rivers. Most of these fertile lands belong to Government, and it can have them cultivated either directly through the Agricultural Department, or indirectly through raiyats. If the sowing be commenced in Magh, a bumper crop can be expected in next Baisakh. The cultivation of *boro* rice is an easy affair, and the chars and banks of rivers being constantly watered by the rising tide, want of rain will do no injury. If the Government acts up to this suggestion, it will not only supply the people with a large stock of cheap corn, but will also realize a large profit by its sale, which will more than recover the expenditure which will be incurred in growing the paddy. The Government will in this way avert the famine without spending a pice.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Jan. 3rd, 1897.

42. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 6th January has the following:—

The railway as a famine insurance measure.

Sir Lepel Griffin lately observed at a meeting in England that the heavy famine mortality of past times in India was due to unsatisfactory and incomplete arrangements for famine relief in those days. The *Hindoo Patriot* ridicules Sir Lepel, taking him to be so ignorant as not to know that railways had not intersected the country in those days as they have done now. Sir Lepel is not a fool, and there could, in those days, be formulated efficient famine relief measures even in the absence of railways. No famine can visit the country if measures are adopted

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 6th, 1897.

for keeping granaries filled with grain in every district and in every village in a district. There were in those days Government rice *golas* in many places. If there had been more such *golas*, no famine could have visited the country. Famine could have been averted even in pre-railway times if granaries had been formed at least in eight or nine centres in every district. Corn, thus reserved, could be sold off during harvest time, not without profit to the Government, and the granaries might be replenished with new corn. Famine could thus be easily averted without a large expenditure of money and without any loss to the State. It was not at all difficult to make a rough estimate of the population or to distribute corn in famine-stricken places.

The country has now been covered with a net-work of railways, but have railways made famine impossible? Railways cannot grow corn. They can distribute corn, if corn exists in the country. But railways are helping on the work of fast depleting the country of its food-grains. The corn that is grown every year being largely exported, what will the railways distribute? It takes time to import corn, and it is not an easy affair to import it from distant countries. The railway, therefore, is no guarantee against famine. Reserve granaries, well filled with corn, will be a safer and more real guarantee.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 7th, 1897.

43. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 7th January has the following:—

Rejection of Sir Alexander Mackenzie's proposal.

It is a matter of regret that the Governor-General has rejected the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal to advance money on interest at the rate of six per cent. to private traders who would import corn from foreign countries and sell it at favourable prices in the famine-stricken parts of Bengal, where there has been a total failure of food-supply, and where private traders are not likely to take their corn for sale. The Lieutenant-Governor submitted this proposal for the consideration of the Governor-General, quite sure that it would meet with his approval. The proposal has the sanction of the Famine Commissioners, and the Lieutenant-Governor took every precaution to secure the realisation of the money which was to be advanced to private traders. He was, in fact, so very sure of the Governor-General's approval that he even instructed the district authorities to send to him applications for the grant of the advance. His Honour was, in fact, quite prepared to give effect to the proposal, anticipating the Governor-General's approval and sanction.

But he has been sadly disappointed. The Governor-General has rejected his proposal, on the ground that it will militate against the principles of free trade. His Excellency also observes that the proposal is unnecessary, as there is no place in Bihar which is not within twenty-five miles of a railway line. This, however, is no revelation to the Lieutenant-Governor and his advisers, and when they made the proposal which Lord Elgin has rejected they must have ascertained that there were many places in Bihar where there had been a total failure of food-supply. The Governor-General has all along followed a blundering famine policy. It is owing to his indifference and apathy that the famine has reached an acute stage in the Central Provinces, where thousands are actually dying from starvation! By rejecting the Lieutenant-Governor's proposal he has done an irreparable harm to Bengal, where people will now die from starvation in spite of the Lieutenant-Governor's efforts to save their lives! The Governor-General's arguments are based on a false theory, and he has committed a culpable mistake by treating the Lieutenant-Governor's practical knowledge and experience with scant courtesy.

It is a pity that the Lieutenant-Governor has been made subordinate to the Viceroy. Bengal would not have had to suffer had John Bright's proposal to abolish the Governor-Generalship and make the Provincial Governments independent been followed. Bengal is the richest and the best-paying Province. Its revenue amounts to no less than twenty-four crores of rupees, and its expenditure does not amount to more than twelve or thirteen crores. Had it been independent, famine could have done it no harm.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

44. The *Hitavadi* of the 1st January writes as follows:—

The Congress.

The *Pioneer* chuckled over its anticipated disorder in the Congress from shortness of funds.

HITAVADI,
Jan. 1st, 1897.

There is nothing to be surprised at in this demonstration of joy; for it is no wonder that the Congress should be an eye-sore to Anglo-Indians of the type of the Editor of the *Pioneer*! That the *Pioneer*, though fed by Indian money, should show such antipathy to natives is conduct quite worthy of people like him. But the editor will be sorry to hear that after the usual expenditure on its sittings, the Congress will have this year at its disposal a surplus of nearly Rs. 25,000. This open-handedness of the people in this season of scarcity is no small triumph for the Congress, for it shows that its usefulness is recognised by them.

The Congress pandal was so crowded this year that many could not obtain admission. If the price of tickets had been made lower, there would not have been room enough for the number of visitors who would have come; and even the bitterest opponent of the Congress would have been compelled to admit that the Congress is loved by all ranks and conditions of people in this country, if he had seen the vast crowd which patiently stood outside the pandal.

In no previous sitting of the Congress were so many visitors' tickets sold. More than Rs. 6,000 was obtained this year from this source.

45. The *Sanjivani* of the 2nd January contains nothing besides an account of the proceedings of the last meeting of the Congress.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 2nd, 1897.

46. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 3rd January writes as follows:—

The vitality of the Congress.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 3rd, 1897.

That the Congress, observes the *Indian Mirror*, has been held in spite of the famine and the plague proves its vitality. Vitality of the Congress indeed! During the time of Pericles, when the plague was fearfully raging at Athens, the Athenians immensely enjoyed themselves, and all public and private places of amusement were full to overflowing. This shocked Pericles. He was a fool not to understand that this merry-making of the Athenians proved that they possessed superabundant vitality. During the last Franco-German war, all Parisian theatres were open and drew crowds of spectators even when the enemy was thundering at the city gate. Turning to homelier cases, let us remind the reader of the story of Uncle Nilu, who surrendered himself, body and soul, to wine and women on the eve of his confinement in jail. Yadu's father's conduct has passed into a proverb. When Yadu died his mother pawned a water-pot for a rupee, and gave the money to her husband to buy a *charpoy* for the removal of the dead body. Yadu's father went straight to a grog-shop, and made himself merry there. When he returned, the dead body of his son had been cremated. His wife took him to task for his heartlessness. But Yadu's father was feeling vigorous vitality in every nerve. "Let bygones be bygones," he straightway answered, "the mistake will not be repeated when Madhu's turn will come." Madhu, we need not say, was his second son. This answer silenced Yadu's mother. The Congress alive indeed! It feels vigorous vitality in every member and limb.

47. The *Dainik o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 4th January has the following:—

The Congress on the famine.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 4th, 1897.

Mr. Surendranath Banerji, the patriot of patriots, was the Speaker, and Mr. Sayani was the President. The audience was composed of patriots from the four quarters of India, and the subject of Mr. Banerji's speech was famine in India. In the speaker's opinion, speech—omnipotent speech—can do anything and everything. So he went on speaking, thundering forth his eloquence. The Congress pandal resounded with his fiery declamation, in which he condemned the Government for the abolition of the Famine Fund, and demanded its restoration. He called upon the Government to bear the whole burden of famine expenditure, and, if necessary, to beg at England's door for help. It is not known whether Mr. Banerji is prepared to pay a farthing out of his own pocket in aid of his famine-stricken countrymen; but it is well known that he would like to see the Indian people spend whatever they can spare on the furtherance of the Congress cause. In the speaker's opinion, as well as in the opinion of his audience, the Congress is the panacea for all Indian evils. It will make poor India rich, her weak and cowardly children strong and brave. It will remove food and water-scarcity from the country, improve agriculture, and make arts and industries, trade and commerce flourish. It will drive away diseases and epidemics, and make thieves and

robbers disappear from the country. So Mr. Banerji moved his resolution, no doubt believing that it will bring England's money to India—at least ninety crores of rupees in exchange for the ninety thousand which must be sent to England from this country for the up-keep of the British Committee. If this cannot relieve the prevailing distress, nothin gwill. The Congress, moreover, will make the Government abolish all taxes. It will bring down rain from the clouds, and make the fertile Indian soil still more fertile. It will stop exportation, make the people thrifty, and make them use indigenous articles more extensively. Let not the example of the Babus influence you. Let their counsels be your guide. They are themselves dressed from head to foot in European clothes. They are Europeanised in their feelings and sentiments. But what of that? Words are more powerful than deeds; precept is better than example. As for the famine, let not the present distress disturb the patriot's equanimity. Let him rather try to make the famine impossible in future by making speeches and moving resolutions. Let the Government be forced to grapple with the present distress, and avert any distress that may come in future, but let not the people spend a pice for the removal of the prevailing famine. Let every farthing be spent to make famine impossible in future. The Congress is agitating to make the recurrence of famine impossible. Let, therefore, every farthing be spent in furthering the Congress cause. Let not the sight of famine-stricken people move the patriot's heart. A patriot should be firm and unsentimental. He should care more for the future than for the present. The money spent in relieving the present distress will be money misspent; whereas every farthing spent in the furtherance of the Congress cause will repay you a hundredfold by making famine impossible in future, and thereby saving the lives of millions of people! Let, then, the Government take care of the present, whilst the Congress takes care of the future. Let the Government grapple with the impending calamity, and let the patriots hold Congress meetings.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 4th, 1897.

48. The same paper writes as follows:—

The last Congress.

The patriot's "Mother-worship" is over. The Congress men have now bade adieu to their goddess, and have drowned their minds in other thoughts for a whole year. The next session of the Congress will be held in Amaravati (Amraoti) in Berar, in Paradise, that is to say. During the last twelve years there have been at least twelve hundred speeches delivered in Congress meetings. Mr. Banerji, the word-hero, said at a municipal meeting that it was speech-making men that were needed in governing the country. No wonder that the Congress will try to regenerate India by speech-making. Babu Surendranath has hurled his eloquence at Famine, and famine alarmed and terrified, will no doubt fly from the country. The Babus have thus relieved the distress of millions of people without spending a pice. If anything has to be spent, let the Government and the District Boards spend it. After the Congress was held the Social Conference. The Congress seeks to regenerate India economically and practically, and the Social Conference seeks to regenerate her morally and socially. This is regeneration with a vengeance. It will not take India long to go to *Amaravati*—to go to Paradise, that is to say.

URIYA PAPERS.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Dec. 16th, 1896.

49. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 16th December notes that before the reaping of the paddy is over, threshing has briskly commenced, in order to supply rice to foreign

Export of rice from Orissa. traders for export. If exportation goes on at this rate, the price of rice, which now varies from day to day, will soon rise and become simply prohibitive.

SAMVADVAHIKA,
Dec. 17th, 1896.

50. The *Samvadvaika* of the 17th December notices with regret that the cultivating classes part with their paddy without

Injudicious sale of food-grains by the Uriya cultivators.

making ample provision for the future, and that the temptation of making money, when rice sells at a high price, has become strong in their hearts, and has made them, in a manner, indifferent to the near approach of a fearful scarcity after a stated period.

51. The *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of the 21st October strongly objects to the export of rice, but does not approve of any measure that may in any way interfere with the course of free trade.
Export of rice and loss of crops.
52. The *Khurda* correspondents of the *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 16th December, and the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* of the 21st October, complain bitterly of a species of wild insects that have destroyed the paddy plants which survived the effects of drought and flood in such a way that even their straw is not fit for the consumption of cattle.
Destruction of paddy plants by insects.
53. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 16th December sympathises with those classes of people in Orissa who have no lands and who purchase rice every day, and observes that they are fast approaching a stage whence it will be very difficult to bring them back.
Sufferings of the landless classes in Orissa.
54. The same paper regrets that the settlement proceedings in Kuhudi, Banpur, Balbhadrapur, and Rameswar mauzas of *Khurda*, in district Puri, are so inopportune and cruelly conducted that cultivating tenants and *sarborakars*, engaged in reaping the remnants of their paddy harvest in the fields, are fined heavily for not attending the Settlement Office in time.
The settlement proceedings.
55. The *Khurda* correspondent of the same paper predicts that the future of that part of Orissa is bad, that the general outlook is disappointing, and that there will be a scarcity of water in the near future. In this connection he alludes to a rumour that the advent of the *Thakur Raja* (Raja of Puri) in Cuttack augurs ill.
The outlook in *Khurda*.
56. The same paper regrets to observe that although the deplorable state of the roads and bridges in the Balasore Municipality has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the public, the municipality has all along remained indifferent, and, as a consequence, no attention has as yet been paid to their repair.
The roads and bridges of the Balasore Municipality.
57. The *Samvadvahika* of the 17th December has an appreciative notice of the Durbar speech of His Honour, delivered at Belvedere, and sympathises with His Honour's appeal to the charity of the public.
The Lieutenant-Governor's Durbar speech.
58. The *Utkal Dipika* of the 19th December does not at all sympathise with the attempts of the Subdivisional Officer of Kendrapara in Cuttack and his friends in organising a cricket match which it is proposed will cost Rs. 300, which will be raised by public subscription, and advises that the sum, small though it be, may be utilised in relieving the distress of the poor and famished in that subdivision.
Expected misuse of money by the Subdivisional Officer of Kendrapara.
59. In noticing the transfer of Mr. R. C. Dutt, C.I.E., Officiating Commissioner of the Orissa Division, the same paper observes that such transfer is not advisable at a time when the whole province of Orissa is threatened with a famine in the near future.
Mr. R. C. Dutt's transfer from Orissa.
60. The same paper agrees in the views of Mr. Dutt, Officiating Commissioner of the Orissa Division, as expressed in his annual Administration Report of that Division, that the system of giving the raiyats of *Khurda* the right to transfer their occupancy rights is good in the end, and that the system of lending paddy on interest in kind, which is prevalent in that subdivision of the Puri district, is both good and economical.
Certain agricultural matters.
61. Referring to the purchase of 75,000 maunds of rice by the Maharaja of Darbhanga, the same paper observes that the act was both wise and economical, and it is not understood why His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal objected to the same, as appears from His Honour's conversation with the Manager of the Maharaja.
The Lieutenant-Governor on the Maharaja of Darbhanga's purchase of rice.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,
Oct. 21st, 1896.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Dec. 16th, 1896.

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HITAISHINI,
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NAVASAMVAD.

SAMVADVHIKA,
Dec. 17th, 1896.

UTKAL DIPIKA,
Dec. 9th, 1896.

UTKAL DIPIKA.

UTKAL DIPIKA.

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UTKAL DIPIKA,
Dec. 9th, 1896.

62. A correspondent of the same paper finds fault with the management of the Bhuvaneswar temple by the Temple Committee, and points out that the insufficiency of the *Mahaprasad* (holy food) has produced serious discontentment among the *Sebakas* of the temple and the pilgrims that visit it.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 9th January 1897.